

His Story: Finding Jesus in Church History Class 6

The Age of Revivals: Puritans, Baptists, & Pietists (1600-1776)

Note: Due to Hurricane Milton, no class will be held. Instead, we recommend you read the notes below along with the recommended chapters and complete the activities on pages 2 and 3 on your own. We will discuss at next week.

The Enlightenment [Chapter 33 His Story]

- Human reason over religion to solve problems—question church authority

Puritans / Congregationalists [Chapter 34 His Story]

- Mayflower (1620) migration (1629) established Bible Commonwealth
- Sought personal conversion and required conversion for membership until the “half-way covenant”

Baptists [Chapter 35 His Story]

- Required adult baptism by immersion; John Smyth (1570-1612), Roger Williams (RI)

Denominations in the New World Colonies [Chapter 36 His Story]

- Puritans/Congregationalists to Massachusetts (too strict, Thomas Hooker went to Connecticut)
- Baptists in Rhode Island (Roger Williams, Ann Hutchinson)
- Dutch Reformed to New York & New Jersey
- Anglicans to New York, Virginia, North/South Carolina
- Lutherans, Quakers, Anabaptists to Pennsylvania
- Catholics to Maryland [also in Spanish Florida and French Louisiana]
- Presbyterians to the Frontier

Denominational Principles

1. Man is unable to always see the truth clearly; differences of opinion about the form of the church are inevitable.
2. Though these differences are not fundamentals of the faith, they are not matters of indifference. Each Christian is obligated to practice what they believe the Bible teaches.
3. No church has a final and full grasp of divine truth. Therefore, the Church of Christ can never be fully represented by any single ecclesiastical structure.
4. Separation does not itself constitute schism. It is possible to be divided at many points and still united in Christ.

Characteristics of the Pietistic Movement [Chapter 37 His Story]

- Religion of the heart—moving away from doctrine / strict denomination
- Anti-institutional – small groups rather than “big church”
- Zealous personal Bible study and conversion experience
- Social ministry to poor, orphans, widows, anti-slavery, suffrage

“*Pietism* shifted the emphasis across Europe from doctrinal controversy to the care of souls, emphasizing preaching, conversion, stirring music, and lay ministry. In years to come, evangelicals and other revivalists imitated this pietist emotional appeal and focused on individual spirituality.” [Chapter 37, His Story]

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) [Chapter 39 His Story]

- “One of America's most important and original philosophical theologians” Wikipedia

George Whitfield (1714-1770) [Chapter 40 His Story]

- “Preached to 10 million people!” –Wikipedia

Women Preachers (From His Story pages 112-114,135)

Who's your favorite story?

Group 1: Women international preachers

- Despite the intense battle over slavery, white woman **Clarrissa Danforth** and black man **Charles Bowles** led camp meetings in 1817 in New Hampshire—to a white audience.
- **Narcissa Prentiss Whitman** helped establish a mission in the Oregon Territory in the 1840s, but she and her family were massacred by native Americans.
- In the 1880s, **Adele Marion Fielde** served as a missionary in Thailand and China, established schools training more than 500 women to serve as missionaries, spoke up for women's rights, and even helped describe the role of fleas in spreading disease.
- Also in the late 1800s, **Lottie Moon** served as an evangelist in China, baptizing more than a thousand people despite bouts with mental health challenges.
- **Maude Cary** led mission work among Muslims in Morocco, enrolling more than 30,000 Muslims in Bible correspondence courses.
- **Mabel Francis** served as an evangelist in Japan for 56 years, planting 20 churches and being recognized for her work by the Japanese emperor.
- Perhaps most famously, **Florence Nightingale** (1820-1910), who is credited as the founder of modern nursing, heard the voice of God calling her into service under Queen Victoria to establish nursing schools and serve as a nurse in Turkey during the Crimean War.

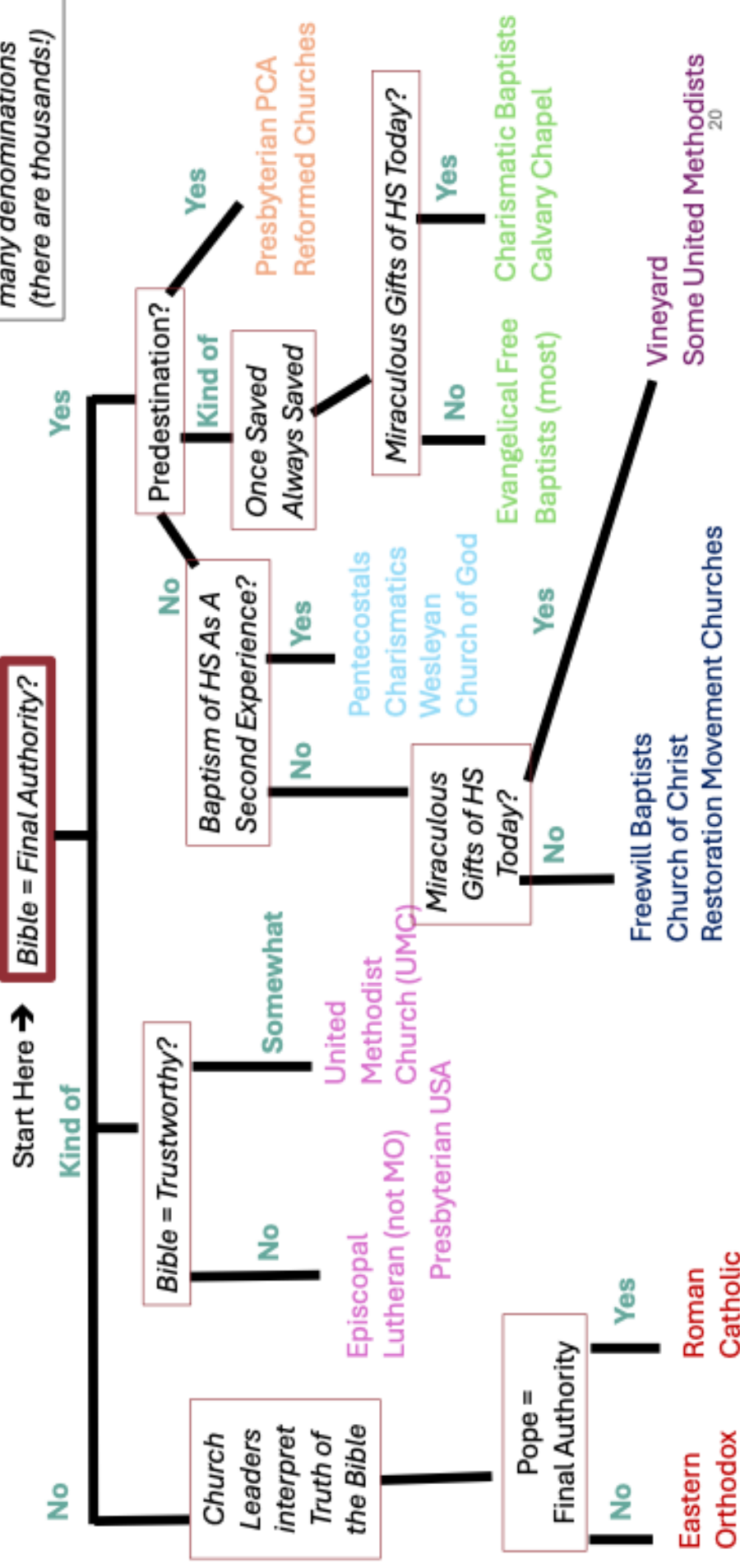
Group 2: Black women preachers

- **Jarena Lee** served as the first African Methodist Episcopal (AME) woman preacher in the 1830s, preaching in Canada, the northern United States, and even the southern United States to both white and black audiences from different denominations.
- **Amanda Smith**, despite constant threats of being kidnapped and enslaved in the mid 1800s, became the most celebrated woman preacher in America and conducted preaching trips to Europe, India, and Africa.
- **Mary McLeod Bethune** trained under D.L. Moody at the Moody Bible Institute to become a missionary in Africa. When the society refused to send her to Africa, she established a school for African American girls in Daytona, FL which became the Bethune-Cookman Collegiate Institute, funded by John D. Rockefeller. She became the first president of the National Council of Negro Women and was recognized by **Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt, and Truman**.
- **Eliza Davis George** established 20 churches in Liberia that she was able to turn over to indigenous leadership on her departure.
- We can't forget the underground railroad ministry of **Harriet Tubman** (1822-1913) who escaped slavery and helped so many people gain their freedom.

Group 3: Temperance and Suffrage Preachers

- **Carry Nation**, famously characterized as a "hatchet-wielding temperance reformer," suffered the all too common fate of marrying an alcoholic, irresponsible husband who deserted the family. She literally took a Bible in one hand and a hatchet in the other to smash saloons while preaching the gospel and temperance from the Scriptures.
- **Frances Willard**, as president of the **Women's Christian Temperance Movement**, promoted social issues including an 8-hour workday, free public education, school lunches, women's higher education and suffrage, welfare and sanitation programs for the poor, and laws against child abuse and rape.
- Quaker **Susan B Anthony** is still considered one of the most influential leaders in the US women's suffrage movement.

What Denomination Do your Beliefs Align With?



Note: This chart is grossly oversimplified and doesn't include many denominations (there are thousands!)